2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
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563
579 had been done by the foreign elements in the population and blamed the Yemeni labourers in the harbour, the cargo and the coal coolies, but they knew full well that the Yemenis had not been responsible for starting the trouble and had not been
167 alone in the pillaging and fire-raising. However, this hare
643 was duly hunted, and the control of landward immigration became a disturbing major problem and many and curious were the proposals and plans that were considered. A great fence was to be built round the landward side of the Colony, twenty to thirty miles in length at a cost which no-one troubled to discover; the Colony was to be cut in half by another fence across the Isthmus, turning Khormaksar and Sheikh Othman into a vast squatter camp of undesirables who could not gain entrance into the Fortress Area; watch towers with searchlights were to be constructed and supplemented by police motor patrols; the population was to be registered and the coolie lines moved from the vulnerable Steamer Point area, all complete with the coal wharves that they served and which were such an eyesore, across the harbour to the northern side. Gradually a more balanced view prevailed and only the last
• [656] proposals became actualities. The population has been regis-
[657] tered and the coolies have been moved, not across the harbour, but from their disgraceful overcrowded dormitories to modern comfortable lines at Ma'alla; and the coal wharves are under construction, but whether there will be any coal to put on them when they are finished is quite a different matter. Every year less and less coal is imported into Aden, for ships bunkers, and very shortly the coaling ship will be almost unique.

563 I do not propose at this juncture to refer to the breaches of
579 the peace which occurred during the labour disturbances in 1955 when the Police Force behaved so admirably—that will come later—but I am going to relate two more examples of the speed with which events in the internal security field can move in Aden.

Less than two months after I became Governor I flew to Mukeiras for a few days. The day after my arrival I heard and saw an aeroplane circling round the landing ground, and

2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
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of Consultative Committee which I would like to see set up in the United Kingdom to provide for the proper consideration of important questions relating to similar Colonial or Commonwealth territories. I prefer the latter term, which by virtue of their size, geographical situation, or economic condition could not in the foreseeable future expect to be granted full Dominion status.

If the change in the Yemen takes the form of a well-established liberal and democratic Government either in the form of a constitutional monarchy or, indeed, of a republic, which I think unlikely, then there may well be a tendency for some of the Protectorate States in close proximity to the frontier to join their co-religionists and brother Arabs. To what extent such a move should be encouraged or could be prevented will depend on the circumstances then prevailing and would be influenced by the magnitude and sincerity of the movement and our own relations with the Rulers and with the Yemen. It is certain, however, that the achievement of Federation within the Protectorate would militate against any piece-meal hiving off of Protectorate States and would put the Protectorate in a much stronger position *vis-à-vis* the Yemen.

The discovery of oil is the second important factor in the future political development of the Protectorate and the changes which oil would bring about must not be underestimated. At my suggestion negotiations were opened with the States with the object of persuading them to pool, for their mutual benefit, any revenue that might be derived from oil. The allocation of such revenue would be the responsibility of a Board which would be predominantly Arab in composition. At the present time it is not known whether the surface indications will warrant the enormous expenditure without which drilling operations cannot be undertaken, nor is it known in which of the twenty-five States drilling will take place, if and when a decision is made to proceed to this stage of the operation. No State is being asked to share a certainty, but all the States are being asked to safeguard the economic interests of their people. The proposed oil agreement is in itself a form of economic federation, and political federation would follow

2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
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closely on the heels of the implementation of the economic bond. It is my view that these negotiations, which were still continuing when I left Aden, should be pressed to a successful conclusion. I use the word "pressed" advisedly because human nature being what it is there may well be selfish and short-sighted Rulers who, with the example of Kuwait, Qatar, and Bahrein before their eyes, would be unwilling to share what is, after all, at this stage only the possibility of potential wealth with their neighbours. It would be intolerable if one or two States became fabulously wealthy while the rest of the Protectorate continued to depend almost for their very existence on the bounty of the United Kingdom taxpayer.

In a startlingly short time after the discovery of oil in commercial quantities, assuming that the revenue therefrom belonged to the Protectorate as a whole and not to individual States, I should expect to see the States federate, if they had not already done so. Then would come further swift political development in a country which would be no less able financially to undertake the responsibilities of Dominion status than is Ghana. Integration with the Colony is an obvious step on the road to Dominion status. Aden, with its magnificent harbour and its 5,000,000-ton Refinery, is the only natural outlet for the oil on the coast of South Arabia, and it is the obvious capital for a future Dominion comprising the present Colony and Protectorate. In June 1933 Sir Samuel Hoare, at that time Secretary of State for India, said in the House of Commons:

"The reasons which suggest that Aden [he was referring to what is now the Colony] should not remain linked with India under the new constitution are, that it is an area geographically remote from India; that it would not naturally fit into the new federation; that it is already to some extent under Imperial control, *and that it is inseparable in practice from the Aden Protectorate*, which has already passed wholly out of Indian control."

I have never seen any reason to disagree with these words, in particular those which I have italicised, and I have never subscribed to the view that it would be possible or desirable

3-Gt. Brit. Colonial Office G-3 (1938) 1940 MMI Aden MM1

743 758 A small Lunatic Asylum is situated outside the walls of the Civil Hospital and is administered from it.

[744] The Port Health work is a very important feature in the medical and sanitary organisation of the Colony. The proximity of Aden by sea to ports which are subject to periodic infections makes the careful inspection of vessels a vital matter, and in addition the services of the Port Health Officer are in constant demand to assist the masters of the many cargo ships which use the port and carry no doctor. Passengers and members of the crews requiring hospital treatment are accommodated in the European General Hospital, or, if the illness is an infectious one, in suitable isolation. A few cases of chickenpox and three cases of modified smallpox were landed from shipping during 1938.

743 744 In the European General Hospital 66 residents of Aden and 155 patients from ships were treated as in-patients during the year. In all 23 different nationalities were represented.

During 1938, 2,178 Bills of Health were issued to mechanically propelled vessels and 1,609 to native craft.

V.—HOUSING

General

342 647 Houses in Aden are of stone masonry, except at Sheikh Othman where they are mostly built with sun-dried bricks.

656 The control of housing in Aden is vested in the Executive Committee of the Settlement, and plans for new buildings and reconstructions are passed by them after scrutiny by the Medical Officer of Health and the Settlement Engineer.

Particular attention is paid to efficient lighting and ventilation. Each residential building is provided with sanitary and kitchen accommodation separated from the living rooms by open court-yards or by large shafts open to the sky.

Most of the houses are provided with floors made of cement-concrete; this is insisted upon in all new buildings, and the height of the houses is never allowed to exceed the width of the streets.

Back-to-back houses are not allowed; a few still exist in the village of Maala, but these are being demolished as opportunity occurs.

[514] 364 At the rear of all houses there are open spaces from 5 ft. to 10 ft. wide. They are called sweeper passages, and the sanitary accommodation of the houses abuts on to these spaces and is drained into them. Each such passage is connected with the main drainage system in all divisions of the Settlement except Maala, where it is connected with a large soak pit.

Every building plan is carefully scrutinised by the Public Health Department before construction is allowed.

S.Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1947) 1949 MM1 Aden MM1

579 Aden by sea. On the day before, the Commissioner of Police had resumed control of security in the Colony.

It was hoped that this calm would be maintained, but on 20th and 21st December feelings again ran high and there were renewed attempts at arson and looting.

On 24th December a bomb exploded in the coolie lines at Hedjuff, killing 2 Arabs and wounding 6, and on that afternoon, in view of the gravely tense situation and of the absolute necessity to use all available forces to put down disorder immediately it should occur, the Fortress Commander was requested to resume security control throughout the Colony and retained that function until 2nd February, 1948. The situation however had eased at the end of the month.

Civilian casualties during the riots were 33 Arabs, 4 Indian Muslims, 1 Somali, 78 Jews and 6 other persons of unknown race, killed. Very many were known to have been wounded or injured.

The Police suffered no fatal casualties, but an Assistant Medical Officer and one Levy were killed in the execution of duty.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, FINANCE AND TRADE

Development Committee

646 At the meeting of the Legislature held on 28th April, 1947, the Council adopted the First Report of the Development Committee as the general development policy for the next ten years, subject to periodic review of details in the light of experience, and the inclusion of such additional schemes as might prove necessary as a result of unforeseen circumstances.

652 The Estimates of the Colony for 1948–49 provide a total of Rs. 27,27,000 for approved development schemes.

362 His Majesty's Government agreed to make a free grant under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act towards the cost of working-class dwellings at Sheikh Othman. The amount of the grant is £27,500 during a five-and-a-half-year period. A further grant will be considered at the end of that period.

Economic Control

439 The hopes expressed earlier that it would be possible to dispense with
654 the Economic Control Department as restrictions on trade were lifted were unfortunately not realised, and the economic crisis which confronts the United Kingdom and the whole of western Europe is having a natural effect on the economic life of Aden, which is dependent upon the maintenance of a vigorous trade for its prosperity.

Since August, 1947, a policy of restricting imports to reasonable essentials and to those goods which are required for the entrepot trade was followed. The merchants co-operated with Government in making this policy effective and as a consequence Aden was able to make a substantial contribution to important foreign exchange reserves. Many essentials remained scarce and in order to ensure that there should be no further reduction in the standard of living of the great bulk of the inhabitants Government maintained a policy of making adequate supplies of essential

S:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1947) 1949 M341 Aden MM1

foodstuffs available to the public at cheap, and in the case of flour at subsidised, prices. The position of entrepot goods, particularly textiles, fluctuated during the year. At the beginning of the year the position was difficult but supplies of American textiles and later of Japanese and Chinese textiles enabled the merchants to re-establish this trade, which was assisted as much as possible by the ready granting of re-export licences to countries within Aden's economic orbit.

There was an increase in the cost of living during the year though a slight fall occurred latterly. The increase was accounted for mostly by an increase in prices in common articles imported from outside. For instance, rice rose from Rs. 2 to Rs. 3 per pally owing to the imposition of an export tax by the Government of Egypt, and soap increased from 4 annas a cake to 6 annas. It must be borne in mind, however, that the consumption of the various articles which together make up the cost-of-living figures have altered greatly since 1939, consumers switching from one kind of foodstuff to another, depending on supplies available, and spending a smaller proportion of their money on articles, such as clothing, which have so greatly risen in price.

Colony Finances

The Colony opened the financial year on 1st April, 1947, with a surplus balance of about Rs. 190 lakhs. During the year it was estimated that the balance would be increased by another Rs. 13 lakhs. Consequently the surplus balance on 1st April, 1948, should be in the region of Rs. 203 lakhs. This figure is exclusive of Rs. 100 lakhs, which is in the Reserve Fund. The total net assets of the Colony therefore amount to over Rs. 300 lakhs (or £2¼ million sterling).

This is probably the high-water mark of the Colony's surplus. During 1948–49 it is proposed to spend Rs. 23 lakhs more than will be received in revenue. This will reduce the surplus balance at the end of the next financial year to about Rs. 180 lakhs. The deficit in the 1948–49 Budget will arise entirely from the implementation of a part of the Development Programme; in other words, the deficit will be the result of capital expenditure. Revenue still balances recurrent expenditure despite the repeal of the excess profits tax, but the margin is now very small.

Customs and Excise Department

The work of the Department continued on normal lines during 1947, and there was no falling off in the collection of excise duties, which amount to about 15 per cent. of the revenue of the Colony.

Taxes on Income

The collection of revenue from income tax and excess profits tax continued to be satisfactory in spite of heavy excess profits tax refunds made on account of deficiency of profits.

The following legislation was enacted during the year:

(1) The Excess Profits Tax Ordinance No. 9 of 1947, which provides that the tax shall *not be chargeable on profits earned after* 1st May, 1947.

5:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-8 (1947) 1949 MMI Aden M M1

of the Garrison, and famine in the hinterland), the floating population increased considerably, and in the absence of proper accommodation were perforce allowed to construct and live in *kutcha* huts in specially demarcated areas.

While control is exercised as far as is possible to prevent epidemics, these are slum areas, which can only be cleared by Government building several hundred working-class houses at a sub-economic rent; areas for this purpose are being reserved under the Town Planning Scheme.

The Town Planning Scheme is gradually taking shape, but in the absence of adequate trained staff, the work can only make slow process. Relaxation on the restriction of building by private enterprise has, however, led to the issue of 78 Permanent Building Permits in 1947 compared with 21 during 1946.

The shortage of some building materials, particularly semi-manufactured iron and steel products and sanitary fittings, is still acute and many projects are held up for this reason.

During 1947 the Township Authority was able to embark on two housing schemes.

(1) In Sheikh Othman 40 houses were erected for working-class families. The scheme is financed in part from a grant under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act.

(2) An area in Crater was planned on which Government intends to erect 36 working-class houses of a slightly better type and in which 86 plots were made available for owner-occupiers to erect houses for themselves, a standard plan having been drawn up and approved by the Township Authority so that building could be done as cheaply as possible. Both Township Authorities of Aden and Sheikh Othman set up permanent Housing Committees whose functions are to allocate all houses erected by Government other than houses erected specifically for occupation by Government employees. The Committee set up in the Fortress Area decided on the allocation of plots referred to above on which houses were to be erected by private enterprise. As town planning legislation has not yet been enacted, there has been some delay in making available plots of land in the Fortress Area on which better-class houses could be erected by private enterprise on any substantial scale. Residential building has been confined mainly to reconstruction or adding storeys to existing houses.

In addition, private building was encouraged where possible.

SOCIAL WELFARE AND RELIEF

There are no social insurance schemes in Aden Colony.

A Government social welfare organisation is being built up gradually, but has been handicapped through lack of staff. A Poor Relief Committee, financed partly through public subscriptions, but notably through

6:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1948) 1950 MM1 Aden MM1

692 effected. Magistrates are also required to submit to the Supreme Court for inspection the record of any case in which a sentence of corporal punishment is awarded.

REGISTRATION

659 The Registration Department is in charge of the Registrar of Documents, who is also Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages for
656 the Colony of Aden.

During the year under review, His Honour the Judge of the Supreme Court was in charge of the offices referred to above.

Registration of Testamentary and Non-Testamentary Documents

The total number of documents presented during the year under report was 375.

Sixty-seven applications for copies, searches and inspections were received, and disposed of.

The number of visits paid by the Sub-Registrar to private residences was 42.

Registration of Firms

Twenty applications for registration of firms under the Partnership Ordinance, 1939, were received.

Bills of Exchange

The total number of bills of exchange noted and protested under the Bills of Exchange Ordinance, 1941, was 55.

Powers of Attorney

The total number of powers of attorney attested or authenticated was seven.

Income

651 The total income for registration of documents, firms and notarial charges was Rs. 6,926.

Duties Performed by the Sub-Registrar

The Sub-Registrar performs the duties of Notary Public, Registrar of Births and Deaths, Registrar of Parsi Marriages, Registrar of Firms, Trade Marks, Patents and Designs, and acts as a Personal Assistant to the Registrar of Documents and the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

POLICE

625 The Police Force has a total strength of 640. The proportion of Police to population is approximately 1 in 125. The Force comprises Aden Arabs, Aden Protectorate Arabs, Indians and Somalis and is officered by members of the Colonial Police Service. It is divided into two distinct units, the Civil Police and the Armed Police. The former perform normal